UNITED NATIONS **A S**

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/660
S/26807
26 November 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 42
THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA
AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 26 November 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to present to you the attached letter dated 26 November 1993 from our Minister for Foreign Affairs (see annex).

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 26 November 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the Secretary-General and to the Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force

On the occasion of the tragic incident of 24 October 1993 near Novi Travnik, in which a Danish driver was killed and 11 members of the United Nations Protection Force, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross wounded, I would like to inform you of the results of the inquiry.

The 3rd Corps HQ, within whose operational zone the incident occurred, in its contacts with international organizations suggested the utilization of routes under the control of the R BH Army so as to avoid possible incidents in the area between the confronting lines of the R BH Army and HVO units. Our units have been precisely instructed how to act when humanitarian convoys pass along the routes under combined control in order to provide for the safety of those convoys.

On 24 October 1993, at about 0800 hours, the HVO took advantage of a humanitarian convoy movement, sneaked to our defence line with convoy vehicles and opened fire at our posts as soon as they had reached the immediate vicinity of our line. The fire opened by the HVO targeted both the R BH Army defence lines and the convoy. The BH Army units, because of the proximity of the convoy and the disposition of its soldiers, were not in a position to and did not fire back, because that would also have put their own soldiers in jeopardy.

From all the facts gathered it can be concluded that the fire that resulted in the killing of the Danish driver and wounding of 11 members of international organizations, was opened by the HVO units. Obviously, the incident was previously planned and its execution aimed at incriminating the R BH Army for jeopardizing humanitarian convoys so as to hinder and halt humanitarian aid deliveries, which actually happened.

The R BH Army units have not only been instructed to exercise utmost caution in respect of humanitarian convoys but also to be actively engaged in seeking for the safest possible transportation routes, in the region of Central Bosnia, in particular. We are very much aware that the continuation of humanitarian convoys is of vital importance for our people in both liberated and occupied territories. Therefore, we will do everything in our power to avoid such incidents, but we are not certain that the opposing side, not dependent on humanitarian convoys because they get their supplies from the neighbouring State, will do the same. I would like to ask you to bear this in mind.

Expressing once more our regret and condolence for the victims of this incident, we ask you to do everything in your power such that similar situations

are avoided and regular humanitarian convoys are maintained. I assure you that the R BH Army units will be at your disposal in order to see this mission successfully implemented.

(Signed) Dr. Irfan LJUBLJANKIĆ
Minister